

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 330, MS 3-22  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)  
(916) 654-2717

**New Web Site Provides Resources for Health Care Providers  
on Developmental Disabilities****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 30, 1999

Contact: Paul Verke  
(916) 654-1820  
Rick Ingraham  
(916) 654-2205

**SACRAMENTO** - A new web site, [www.ddhealthinfo.org](http://www.ddhealthinfo.org), has been launched to educate physicians and other health care providers on health issues facing Californians with developmental disabilities. The State Department of Developmental Services and the California Center for Health Improvement, a prevention- focused health policy center, have announced the creation of the web site. The new site is the product of a unique public and private partnership developed in collaboration with Golden Gate Regional Center and the UC Davis and UC San Diego Medical Schools.

The site offers medical care information, including clinical practice considerations for specific conditions. It lists educational opportunities for health care providers. It also provides information regarding free consultations to California physicians who treat persons with developmental disabilities.

"Health care providers need more information regarding the health issues of this complex population," reports Cliff Allenby, Director of the Department of Developmental Services. "Managed health care systems are placing more demands on general practitioners to treat a diverse population."

This web site is a step toward improving the expertise of health-care providers who serve persons with developmental disabilities. Developmental disabilities include autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, mental retardation, and other neurologically disabling conditions. As they become more familiar with such complex conditions, physicians can provide improved health services to this population.

**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**